

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ryall. (U.S. Patent 6,382,841).

In response to the above-mentioned rejections, Applicants have amended independent claim 1, added claim 14, and deleted claims 12-13. Amended claim 1 adds the further limitation that a length of the first receiving portion is less than a length of the Graded Index lens and a length of the second receiving portion is equal to a corresponding length of the filter. These amendments are fully supported by the drawings and specification, so no new matter issue arises. These limitations mean that the filter is completely received within the tube, protecting it from damage, which is an advantage over the Ryall device. Applicants believe the amended claim 1 and added claim 14 patentably define around the noted prior art. Since claim 1 is now patentable, claims 2-8, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the subject application as claimed in the pending claims is in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Copy of Amendments to the Claims

1. (amended) A collimating device comprising:

a Graded Index lens;

a filter; and

a tube consisting of a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion, wherein the Graded Index lens is secured in the first receiving portion, and the filter is secured in the second receiving portion, a length of the first receiving portion is less than a length of the Graded Index lens and a length of the second receiving portion is equal to a corresponding length of the filter.